

PNEUMATOLOGY

The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit Bible Institute - *Winter 2025-26* Gulf Coast Baptist Church

I. The Spirit's Ministry to the Believer in Christ

A. Overview

1. The Spirit regenerates the one believing the Gospel. This results in spiritual life (Titus 3:5).
2. The Spirit baptizes (immerses) the believer into Christ. This act is known as the baptism of or from the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 2:13; Galatians 3:26-29).
3. The Spirit indwells the believer (1 Corinthians 2:13).
4. The Spirit seals the believer into Christ which guarantees the security of their salvation (Ephesians 1:13; 2 Corinthians 1:22).
5. The Spirit anoints the believer (1 John 2:20; 27; 2 Corinthians 1:21).
6. The Spirit becomes the earnest of the believer's full inheritance (Ephesians 1:14; 2 Corinthians 1:22; 5:5).
7. The Spirit constitutes the first fruits by providing an experience of the future (Romans 8:23).
8. The Spirit fills the believer with the necessary character to live like a part of the Body of Christ (Ephesians 5:18).

B. Regeneration

1. Definition - refers to the spiritual life that is provided to the one believing the Gospel. This spiritual life is the result of the individual being united to all three persons of the Godhead (Father, Son, and Spirit). The believer then shares in aspects of God's nature: the divine nature, eternal life, the mind of Christ, the Spirit's continuous work.
2. Several terms describe the work of regeneration:
 - a) *Gennaō anōthen* means "born from above". This expression focuses on how the believer's spiritual birth comes from above.
 - b) *Anagennaō* means "to bear again, conceive again." This term refers to a new or fresh birth.
 - c) *Paligennesia* means "to bear again, conceive again." This term focuses on multiple births of many saints.
 - d) *Gennaō* means to give birth or to bear.
3. Confusion about the believer's spiritual birth - the terms adoption and regeneration in relation to the believer have often been misunderstood resulting in much confusion. The Biblical idea of adoption is much different than the modern American understanding. Adoption in the ancient world in which the Bible was written involves a graduation within a family when a boy is recognized as becoming a man resulting in position and privileges. This confusion regarding adoption has caused some to miss out on having a full appreciation for their salvation. Believers are NOT "adopted" into God's family. Believers are made to be God's actual children and they receive

this adoption whereby they possess a privileged position in Christ and numerous privileges as a born one of God (Romans 8:15; Galatians 4:4-7; Ephesians 1:5)

4. John 3:3-8

- a) v. 3 - *“except a man be born again...”* - John refers to the necessity of an “above” birth
 - (1) Heavenly nature of this birth
 - (2) The Spirit was not yet resident
 - b) v. 5 - *“except a man be born of water and of the Spirit”*
 - (1) Of - even
 - (2) The water refers to the Spirit
 - c) v. 6 - *“that which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.”*
 - (1) There are two different births referenced - natural birth in which all individuals are spiritually dead and spiritual birth that affects one’s spirit
 - (a) Spiritual birth does not immediately result in a new body or soul (1 Peter 1:5-9)
 - (b) The Spirit of God is joined to one’s human spirit providing renewal - they are now able to understand God’s truth
 - d) v. 7 - *“Marvel not that I said unto thee, ye must be born again”*
 - e) v. 8 - *“The wind bloweth where it listeth and thou hearest the sound thereof, but can’t not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.”*
 - (1) The affect of the Spirit in our lives is evident but the Spirit is invisible
5. Titus 3:5 - *“Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;”*
 - a) Regeneration consists of a renewing of or by the Holy Spirit
 - b) Regeneration has nothing to do with a man’s works
6. 1 John 3:9 - *“Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.”*
 - a) John teaches us that because the believer possesses God’s seed he cannot go on sinning.
 - b) God will always intervene in the life of one of His children who persists in sin.
 - c) John is not teaching that the believer will never sin, only that he cannot persist in sin.
7. 1 John 4:4 - *“Ye are of God, little children and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.”*
8. 1 John 5:1 - *“Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him.”*
 - a) Regeneration occurs as a result of faith in the Gospel
 - b) This faith is in the person of Jesus (the man who died for sins) Christ (the Resurrected Glorified One).

C. Believers in Christ are genuinely God’s children

1. 1John 3:1 - *“Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.”*
 - a) John states that we have been called the children (born ones) of God
 - b) John also states that believers actually are God’s children - this new birth means that we have actually been born into God’s family

2. John 1:11-12 - *“But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, [even] to them that believe on his name: 13 Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.”*
 - a) This statement by John refers to Old Testament saints (in the Gospels) who believed in the nature and character of Christ that received authority to become God’s children in the future - Pentecost
 - b) Believers in Christ today become children immediately upon directing faith at the Gospel
3. Romans 8:16-17 - *“The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: 17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with [him], that we may be also glorified together.”*
4. Ephesians 5:1 - *“Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children;”*
5. Ephesians 5:8 - *“For ye were sometimes darkness, but now [are ye] light in the Lord: walk as children of light:”*
6. 1John 3:2 - *“Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.”*